



CERTIFICATION OF DEPOSIT AS FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope with sufficient postage affixed addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on September 10, 2003.

Name: Esther Lily C. Esguerra

Signature: *Esther Lily C. Esguerra*

#10
Amend B
JB
10/7/03

Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 005950-742

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)	Group Art Unit: 3673
)	
JAMES, et al.)	Examiner: KRECK, J.J.
)	
Application No.: 09/964,930)	Confirmation No. 2190
)	
Filed: September 26, 2001)	
)	
For: BENTONITE NODULES)	

AMENDMENT

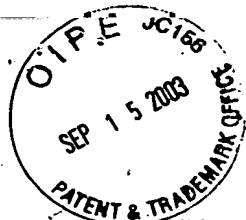
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on April 1, 2003.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.



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Name: Esther Lily C. Esguerra

Signature: *E. Esguerra*

Patent

Attorney's Docket No. 005950-742

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In re Patent Application of

) Group Art Unit: 3673

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) Examiner: KRECK, J.J.

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SEP 22 2003

AMENDMENT/REPLY TRANSMITTAL LETTER GROUP 3600

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Enclosed is an Amendment/Reply for the above-identified patent application.

☒ A 3-Month Petition for Extension of Time is also enclosed.

☐ A Terminal Disclaimer and the ☐ \$55.00 (2814) ☐ \$110.00 (1814) fee due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.20(d) are also enclosed.

☒ Also enclosed is/are Acknowledgment Postcard.

☐ Small entity status is hereby claimed.

☐ Applicant(s) requests continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and enclose the ☐ \$375.00 (2801) ☐ \$750.00 (1801) fee due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e).

☐ Applicant(s) requests that any previously unentered after final amendments not be entered. Continued examination is requested based on the enclosed documents identified above.

☐ Applicant(s) previously submitted ___, on ___, for which continued examination is requested.

☐ Applicant(s) requests suspension of action by the Office until at least ___, which does not exceed three months from the filing of this RCE, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c). The required fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) is enclosed.

☐ A Request for Entry and Consideration of Submission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.129(a) (1809/2809) is also enclosed.

☒ No additional claim fee is required.

☐ An additional claim fee is required, and is calculated as shown below:

AMENDED CLAIMS					
	NO. OF CLAIMS	HIGHEST NO. OF CLAIMS PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	EXTRA CLAIMS	RATE	ADD'L FEE
Total Claims		MINUS =		× \$18.00 (1202) =	
Independent Claims		MINUS =		× \$84.00 (1201) =	
If Amendment adds multiple dependent claims, add \$280.00 (1203)					
Total Claim Amendment Fee					
If small entity status is claimed, subtract 50% of Total Claim Amendment Fee					
TOTAL ADDITIONAL CLAIM FEE DUE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					

☐ A total fee in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

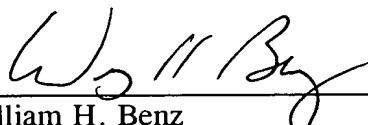
☐ Charge \$ _____ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.20(d) and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: September 10, 2003

By: 
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